

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Sri Lanka showed interest in setting up concrete sleeper plant. An offer was submitted by IRCON (a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways) to Govt. of Sri Lanka in 1994.

There is no offer for implementation of rail track projects in Sri Lanka by the Government.

(b) Government of Sri Lanka has informed that based on reviews of their requirement they have pending the proposal for setting up of concrete sleeper plant.

[English]

#### **Survey for Laying Down New Rail Line in Nandyal-Yerraguntla Section**

5205. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether survey for laying down new rail lines in Nandyal-Yerraguntla section under South-Central Railway is proposed to be taken up;

(b) if so, the time by which the above survey work is likely to be started and completed; and

(c) the approximate funds sanctioned for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The survey for Nandyal-Yerraguntla section has already been completed and based on this survey the work has been included in the Budget.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rs. 3.78 lakhs has been spent on the survey.

[Translation]

#### **Allotment of STD/PCO Booths**

5206. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI PAWAN DIWAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD/PCO booths allotted to the handicapped and unemployed persons are being illegally run by other persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any connivance of the Telecom employees has been detected in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details for the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

[English]

#### **Functioning of Rural/Urban Telephones**

5207. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the functioning of telephones in urban areas and rural areas;

(b) whether the Government have imparted training to the linemen to handle the latest technology to ensure prompt and efficient service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The linemen cadre has been re-structured into the cadre of phone mechanic. The phone mechanics are being imparted 8 weeks training including the latest technology. However, Linemen who have not opted for Phone Mechanics cadre, are being imparted a 3-week training to upgrade their skill.

#### **Rush of Passengers on New Delhi-Palwal Route**

5208. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy load of daily passengers on Palwal-New Delhi route and particularly at New Town Faridabad station;

(b) if so, whether any Action Plan has been chalked out by the Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that if 4003 Intercity Express is provided with a halt at New Town Faridabad station and the same is extended upto New Delhi it will meet the genuine demand of the people of this area; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. During the morning and evening peak hours.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no plan to introduce additional trains on Palwal-Faridabad-New Delhi section due to operational and resource constraints. However, EMU rakes on this sector are being progressively augmented to 12 car to meet extra rush.

(d) and (e) Stoppage of 4003 Agra Cantt.-Nizamuddin Express at Faridabad Town has been examined but not found feasible.

Extension of 4003/4004 Express upto New Delhi has also not been found feasible due to operational constraints including terminal facilities at New Delhi.

#### **Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Railway Section**

5209. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned in principle and are allocating funds for electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda section;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds already spent and progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the targetted date of completion of the electrification work of above section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Electrification of Kharagpur-Khurda Road section of South Eastern Railway is covered in electrification projects of Kharagpur-Bhubneswar and Bhubneswar-Visakhapatnam sections.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred upto 31.3.97. However, allocation of Rs. 46.53 crores has been made for these works in the budget for the year 97-98.

(d) The target for completion is March '2002.

#### **AI's Share in International Traffic**

5210. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a steady fall in Air India's share in International Traffic from and to India while other Airlines improved their position;

(b) the reasons for dismal performance of Air India; and

(c) the steps taken for boosting growth of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) While the number of passengers carried by Air India has not declined, its market share has come down from 24.5% in 1990 to 23.1% in 1995, as the airline has not been able to grow at the same rate as the international traffic.

(c) To increase its market share, Air India is taking steps to augment capacity, intensify marketing efforts and to improve its product, image and on time performance.

#### **Expansion of Flights**

5211. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Air India and Indian Airlines have plans to renew and expand their flights during 9th Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific proposals in that regard for the year 1997-98; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

#### **Air Bus-300 and Boeing-737 Aircraft**

5212. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-Bus-300 and Boeing-737 aircraft which forms part of the fleet of Indian Airlines are only aging flying machines;

(b) if so, the period for which each such aircraft has been on wings, indicating their optimum safe flight period or mile-age of flights; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **[Translation]**

#### **Introduction of Train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi**

5213. SHRI CHITRASEN SINKU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi for the convenience of the people of Nalanda, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi, people have to go to Patna from remote places; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government propose to run a train between Gaya Junction and New Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) 6 pairs of train including Rajdhani Expresses connect Gaya and Delhi. Introduction of a train between Gaya and Delhi has been examined but not found feasible due to operational including terminal/maintenance constraints at both Gaya